

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8575

C O N F I D E N T I A L AMMAN 3800

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, JO, US

SUBJECT: TALK WITH NEW PRIME MINISTER

REF: STATE 177804

1. I TOOK OPPORTUNITY OF A COURTESY CALL ON NEW PRIME MINISTER MUDHAR BADRAN TO DELIVER SECRETARY'S PERSONAL MESSAGE TO HIM (REFTEL).

2. BADRAN READ THE TEXT OF THE MESSAGE IN MY PRESENCE. HE TOLD ME HE WANTED TO HAVE ME MAKE CLEAR TO THE SECRETARY HIS APPRECIATION OF THE MESSAGE. THROUGH ME HE WANTED ALSO TO ASSURE THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT THAT IT COULD COUNT ON CONTINUING THE SAME DEGREE OF COOPERATION AND COORDINATION WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF JORDAN. HE WAS DEDICATING HIS EFFORTS, HE SAID, TO INSURE THAT WHATEVER THE CHANGE IN GOVERNMENT, THERE WOULD BE NO FUNDAMENTAL CHANGE IN JORDAN'S CLOSE RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES.

3. I HAD AN OPPORTUNITY DURING THE MEETING TO REVIEW WITH BADRAN A NUMBER OF GENERAL DEVELOPMENTS IN THE AREA. I BROUGHT HIM UP TO DATE ON THE AIR DEFENSE QUESTION ON WHICH THE KING HAD KEPT HIM FULLY BRIEFED. I ALSO TALKED WITH HIM ABOUT THE SITUATION IN LEBANON AND DREW FOR HIM ON THE GENERAL LINES OF MY REPORT TO THE KING FOLLOWING OUR PARIS MEETING LAST MONTH TO ILLUSTRATE SOME OF THE BASIC US INTERESTS IN THE REGION
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AND TO DESCRIBE FOR HIM OUR POLICY.

4. BADRAN IN TURNED PASSED ON TO ME SOME SPECIFIC INFORMATION ABOUT IRAQI ACTIVITIES IN THE AREA OF WHICH HE HAD BECOME AWARE.

5. HE ALSO OUTLINED FOR ME HIS GENERAL FUTURE INTENTIONS AS PRIME MINISTER. IT IS CLEAR FROM WHAT HE HAD TO SAY THAT HE WILL BE FOCUSING ON DOMESTIC QUESTIONS. HE IS CURRENTLY PREOCCUPIED WITH IMPROVING THE OPERATION OF THE AQABA PORT. HE HAS A NUMBER OF OTHER SIMILAR SUCH PROJECTS IN HIS TOP DRAWER AND HE SAYS HE WANTS TO MOVE AHEAD WITH THEM AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

6. THIS DIVISION OF RESPONSIBILITY, PREFIGURED IN EMBASSY EARLIER REPORTING ON THE CABINET CHANGE, WAS ALSO REEMPHASIZED FOR ME BY SHARIF ABDUL-HAMID SHARAF, NEW HEAD OF ROYAL COURT, ON WHOM I ALSO CALLED JULY 19. SHARAF EMPHASIZED TO ME THE CABINET WOULD BE ZEROING IN ON DEVELOPMENTAL PROBLEMS. HE EXPECTS, AND ASKED ME ALSO, TO KEEP NEW PRIME MINISTER INFORMED HOWEVER ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS ISSUES. THE NEW GROUP AROUND THE KING IN THE ROYAL COURT WILL PROVIDE KING WITH FOREIGN POLICY ADVICE AND OPTIONS. IN THIS CONNECTION SHARAF STRESSED HIS PERSONAL INTEREST IN ACHIEVING A GREATER BALANCE IN JORDAN'S POLICIES TOWARD THE ARAB STATES. HE WILL ALSO ATTEMPT TO ACT AS A CONDUIT BETWEEN THE NEW PRIME MINISTER AND THE KING ON DOMESTIC AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ISSUES.

7. COMMENT: THE NEW PRIME MINISTER HAS RELATIVELY LIMITED ENGLISH, BUT HAS ARRANGED TO HAVE PRESENT AT OUR MEETINGS, UNLESS I REQUEST OTHERWISE, HIS YOUNG, BRIGHT, AND VERY ACCOMPLISHED MINISTER OF STATE TO ASSIST HIS BROADER UNDERSTANDING.
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